

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 and 20 are pending in the present amendment, Claims 1 and 20 having been amended and Claims 2 and 10-19 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for amendments to Claims 1 and 20 is found, for example, in original Claim 2. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-9 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as anticipated by Davis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,282,522, hereinafter Davis) in view of Kraemer (U.S. Patent No. 6,490,602).

With respect to the rejection of Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Davis in view of Kraemer, the subject matter of which is now included in amended Claim 1, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Amended Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*,

a management unit configured to manage transaction information for each transaction currently in progress between some electronic shops among the plurality of electronic shops and one user among the plurality of users...

a processing unit configured to process said each transaction according to the transaction information managed by the management unit,

wherein the processing unit is configured to execute a collective processing for finalizing completion or failure of a plurality of transactions collectively by carrying out a prescribed procedure with shop computers corresponding to the plurality of transactions, upon receiving a command for finalizing completion or failure of the plurality of transactions for which the transaction information has the fourth information indicating the first state, from a client computer.

Applicants respectfully submit that Davis and Kraemer do not teach or suggest these elements of amended Claim 1.

A non-limiting embodiment of the claimed invention focuses on a global shopping cart function that enables a collective commitment for a plurality of purchases made at a plurality of different electronic shops.<sup>1</sup> In the non-limiting embodiment of the claimed invention, a transaction management computer 1, which is independent of shop computers 2, is described as an example of the global shopping cart function (see Fig. 1 of the present application). In order to achieve the above function, the transaction management computer 1 comprises a transaction information database 13.

The transaction information database 13 is managed by the transaction computer 1, and implemented in a form of a table shown in Fig. 9 of the present application. As shown in Fig. 9, one piece of transaction information is recorded in each row of the table. The transaction information contains state information (a "STATE" field) for indicating a state of each transaction as one of a plurality of possible states. As an example of the state of each transaction, there are "ACTIVE" (the first and second states), "COMMITTED" (the third state), "ABORTED" (the fourth state), and etc. "ACTIVE" indicates a state in which the transaction is currently in progress and its completion is not finalized (a state in which the transaction is held in shopping cart). "COMMITTED" indicates a state in which the transaction is completed. "ABORTED" indicates a state in which the transaction is once put into shopping cart and then cancelled later on.<sup>2</sup>

When a user carries out a procedure for finalizing completion or failure of a plurality of transactions between some electronic shops and the user collectively, by utilizing the shopping cart function, the user presses "Collectively commit" or "Collectively abort" buttons on a shopping cart display screen shown in FIG. 25 of the present application.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Specification, page 6, lines 6-10 and Fig. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Specification, page 27, line 34 to page 29, line 3, and Fig. 9.

<sup>3</sup> Specification, page 40, lines 2-21, and Fig. 25.

If the user presses the “Collectively commit” button, the transaction management computer 1 changes the state of all the transactions in the “ACTIVE” state to “PREPARING,” and then sends a PREPARE message for inquiring whether or not the procedure to validate this transaction can be completed to each corresponding shop computer 2. Each corresponding shop computer 2 returns a PRECOMMIT message if a procedure for the corresponding transaction can be completed, so that the transaction management computer 1 changes the state of the corresponding transaction to “PRECOMMITTED.” Then, when all the corresponding shop computers 2 return the PRECOMMIT message, the transaction management computer 1 changes the state of all the transactions to “COMMITTING,” and then sends a COMMIT message for completing the procedure to each corresponding shop computer 2. Each corresponding shop computer 2 returns a COMMITTED message when a processing necessary for finalizing completion of the corresponding transaction is finished at this site, so that the transaction management computer 1 changes the state of the corresponding transaction to “COMMITTED.” When the state of all the transactions is changed to “COMMITTED,” the collective processing is completed.<sup>4</sup>

If the user presses the “Collectively abort” button, the transaction management computer 1 changes the state of all the transactions in the “ACTIVE” state to “ABORTING,” and then sends an ABORT message to each corresponding shop computer 2. Each corresponding shop computer 2 returns an ABORTED message if a procedure for the aborting of the corresponding transaction can be completed, so that the transaction management computer 1 changes the state of the corresponding transaction to “ABORTED.”

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<sup>4</sup> Specification, page 40, line 22 to page 43, line 24, and Figs. 26 and 27.

When the state of all the transactions is changed to "ABORTED," the collective aborting is completed.<sup>5</sup>

Contrary to the claimed invention, Davis discloses a system that focuses on a local shopping cart function that enables a collective commitment for a plurality of purchases made at a single electronic shop (merchant server 208) to take part. Although the user is directed to actuate a purchase completion in step 510 in Fig. 10 of Davis, step 510 is executed in each single merchant.

It should be noted that, in order to realize the global shopping cart function, it is necessary to install a management unit configured to unify transaction information for each transaction currently in progress between some electronic shops and one user and configured to be independent of the some electronic shops. However, Davis does not teach or suggest the above-described management unit. Davis merely discloses that each single electronic shop separately proceeds with the step 510 in response to step 508 in Fig. 10 of Davis, in which the user selects items to purchase.<sup>6</sup>

Furthermore, because Davis fails to teach the above-described management unit, Davis does not describe or suggest a processing unit configured to carry out a collective processing for finalizing completion or failure of the plurality of transactions collectively.

Kraemer discloses a system that focuses on a multi-retailer shopping cart function that enables a collective commitment for a plurality of purchases made at a plurality of different electronic shops. In the system disclosed in Kraemer, a user may select "Purchase all products" within a toolbox to purchase multiple products held in the shopping cart all at once.<sup>7</sup> However, the user cannot stop purchasing the multiple products held in the shopping

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<sup>5</sup> Specification, page 43, lines 25 to page 44, line 6.

<sup>6</sup> Davis, col. 14, lines 44-52.

<sup>7</sup> Kraemer, example 3, col. 7, lines 35-45.

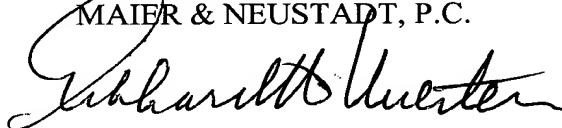
cart all at once. Kraemer merely discloses a collective processing for finalizing completion of a plurality of transactions collectively.

In view of the above-noted distinctions, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 (and Claims 3-9) patentably distinguish over Davis and Kraemer, taken alone or in proper combination. Amended Claim 20 is similar to amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 20 patentably distinguishes over Davis and Kraemer, taken alone or in proper combination, for at least the reasons stated above.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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